

HOUSE RESOLUTION 252

By Barker

A RESOLUTION to commend Dr. William Oakley for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Oakley is one such stalwart servant of the Lord who has rendered sixty years of faithful, selfless, and effective pastoral leadership to several congregations; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Dyersburg High School, William Oakley was joined in holy matrimony with the love of his life and future pastoral partner, Pattye Norman; the blessed union produced five wonderful children; and

WHEREAS, an avid learner and diligent student, Dr. Oakley graduated from Union University with a bachelor's degree, completed graduate work at New Orleans Seminary, and, possessing an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, earned his doctorate at Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida; and

WHEREAS, since joining the ministry on January 8, 1950, Brother Bill, as he is known by his beloved congregants, has served with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, using his gifts of teaching and preaching the Word to bring the lost to Christ in churches throughout Tennessee, Michigan, Mississippi, California, Arkansas, and Florida; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Oakley currently contributes his time and tremendous talents as the pastor for Trimble Baptist Church, always sharing in the ministries of sympathy, witness, and service and attending to the needs of widows, orphans, his community, and the world; and

WHEREAS, standing as a shining example of Christ's love and forgiveness, William Oakley has tirelessly led revivals in a number of foreign countries, including Columbia, Brazil, Canada, and Poland, where he worked assiduously to provide hope and communicate God's love to everyone he met; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Oakley used his eloquent writing aptitude to author a book, *An Exegesis of the Revelation: A Verse by Verse Commentary*; and

WHEREAS, desiring to pass on his extensive Biblical knowledge and pastoral gifts to the next generation of Christian leaders, Brother Bill served as the Vice President of Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, and, in 2008, participated in a Round Table at the world-renowned Oxford University in England; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as a religious leader and humble servant of God, Dr. Oakley has demonstrated the utmost ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the many and diverse members of his congregations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the ministry of Dr. William Oakley, commend him for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, salute his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living a Christian life with courage and conviction, and wish him every continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.